

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00321 132246Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IGA-02

AID-05 ACDA-07 EB-07 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /079 W

-----132302Z 035034 /64

R 130855Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1491

INFO CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPH PFOR KS US

SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS REPORTS USG MOVE TO END MILITARY GRANT AID
TO ROKG

1. KOREAN PRESS JANUARY 12 FRONT-PAGED REPORT THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WOULD COMPLETE ITS SUPPORT FOR MODERNIZING ROK FORCES, BUT THAT OVER 46 PERCENT OF THE FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM WERE TO BE SUPPLIED BY KOREA, IN SPITE OF WHAT REPORT CLAIMED WAS THE ORIGINAL AMERICAN PROMISE TO MODERNIZE ROK FORCES WITH U.S. GRANT AID.

2. EDITORIALS IN LEADING PAPERS HAVE CRITICIZED THE END OF GRANT AID. CHUNGANG ILBO REMINDED THE U.S. THAT ROK MILITARY READINESS SERVED AMERICAN AS WELL AS KOREAN INTERESTS, AND THAT THE USG "SHOULDN'T BE STINGY" IN CONTINUING THE GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP) AND FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) CREDITS TO KOREA TO PROMOTE THESE COMMON INTERESTS. HANKUK ILBO ATTRIBUTED "THE CHANGE IN POLICY" TO AMERICAN DOLLAR SHORTAGES AND THE INCREASE OF ROK DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, AND SAID THAT WHILE THIS WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, "WE REGRET IT NOT BECAUSE WE WANT FREE GIFTS BUT BECAUSE WE FEAR THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS IT MAY GIVE TO THE ROK AND NORTH KOREA," SEEING A SOUTHWARD INVASION

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BY THE LATTER AS BEING ENCOURAGED BY SUCH A MOVE. THE INDEPENDENT SHINA ILBO TERMED THE MOVE "SHOCKING," SAYING THAT "AMERICA SHOULD BE MORE SINCERE IN CARRYING OUT ITS EARLIER COMMITMENT TO THE ROK," BECAUSE THE ROKG "CAN HARDLY PAY 46 PERCENT OF THE EXPENSES REQUIRED FOR THE ROK MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO US-ROK SECURITY."

3. STORY ECLIPSED BY PRESIDENT PAK'S PROPOSAL FOR ROK-DPRK
NONAGGRESSION PACT IN JANUARY 13 EDITIONS.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS OF COURSE AN OLD STORY WHICH WAS REPORTED
LAST YEAR WHEN PRESIDENT INTRODUCED FY 77 MILITARY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM TO CONGRESS. DESPITE ROK OFFICIAL ACCEPTANCE OF SHIFT
FROM GRANT TO CREDIT, ROK PRESS EDITORIALS BEAT US ABOUT HEAD
AND EARS AT THAT TIME FOR "WELSHING" ON OUR PROMISES. PRECISELY
WHAT REPORT FROM DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ROK PRESS REFERRING TO IN THIS
INSTANCE IS UNCLEAR. REGARDLESS, WE READ EDITS AS ADDITIONAL
INDICATION IF ANY NEEDED OF CURRENT HEIGHTENED CONCERN ABOUT CON-
TINUED U.S. SECURITY SUPPORT--AS WELL AS OF ROK PENCHANT FOR
NEVER GIVING UP CHANCE TO REMIND US OF OUR "OBLIGATIONS."
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AMENDMENTS, ALLEGATIONS
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Sent Date: 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770013-1144
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770155/aaaabvro.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3605766
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TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, MASS, KS, US
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